

March 11, 2012

Education Committee

LOB Room 3100

Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Education Committee members:

My name is Silvia Bettega, I am a Farmington resident and I have been teaching in the Farmington Public Schools for 12 years.

I am contacting you at this time because I am deeply concerned about the drastic changes to education proposed in Senate Bill 24. I find the bill extremely demoralizing and feel that Gov. Molloy is treating educators unfairly.

Although Governor Malloy and the Commissioner of Education are creating a sense of urgency by saying that we cannot wait any longer to reform education, we cannot allow this Bill to be pushed through. There are too many unanswered questions and proposals that do not make sense for Connecticut and can hurt teachers and students.

In order to keep my letter short I will only focus on two main points that concern me about this bill:

- **Tying certification and salary to evaluation:** Entrusting one administrator to conduct evaluations that determine a teacher's salary and certification level is dangerous and problematic. The idea that my master's degree and salary would now be contingent upon having a fair, knowledgeable, and competent administrator evaluate me every year, for the duration of my teaching career, is frightening and unfair.

If there are bad teachers in the classroom it's because administrators have not been doing their job. As a result of the proposed bill, they are given unprecedented powers on teachers' life hoods.

- **Eliminating the Master's Degree requirement:** What happened to "highly qualified"? This proposal means less expertise and lower salaries for our teachers. How will this help our students and close the achievement gap? This would also dismantle effective programs like UConn's Neag School of Education; what do we tell those masters students and future educators?

Sincerely,



Silvia Bettega, Ed.D.

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